

To: Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]
From: Albright, David
Sent: Thur 10/2/2014 9:59:08 PM
Subject: RE: California UIC

Slight change below

From: Amato, Paul
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Albright, David
Subject: RE: California UIC

COB today. I got some info from Jane and update the last two sentences accordingly.

California UIC Program: Region 9 RA sent a letter in July 2014 to the Secretaries of CalEPA and the CA Natural Resources Agency highlighting concerns and requesting information about the State's implementation of its underground injection control program for oil and gas-related (Class II) wells. The Region had previously audited the State's Class II UIC program and identified implementation deficiencies and also conducted a review of aquifer exemptions that raised questions about the alignment of injection wells with EPA-approved exemption boundaries. A few weeks prior to EPA's issuance of the July 2014 letter, the State disclosed they had identified some injection wells authorized to inject Class II fluids into very fresh aquifers that EPA had not exempted (the State subsequently shut down these injection wells). EPA's letter requested that the State provide information about their ongoing assessment of drinking water sources that may be impacted by improper injection, documentation pertaining to aquifer exemptions in the State, and specific data about any Class II injection wells that may be injecting into non-exempt aquifers. We are currently reviewing a draft submittal of information submitted by the State, and the Region will work closely with the CA Division of Oil and Gas and State Water Board to determine actions needed to ensure compliance with the State's UIC primacy program and protect aquifers that could be potential sources of drinking water. We explained the situation and the status of our discussions with the State to Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (Bakersfield – CA) on September 30, in response to his request for more information.

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From: Albright, David

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 2:27 PM

To: Amato, Paul

Subject: RE: California UIC

Needs a little updating. What is deadline?

From: Amato, Paul

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 1:47 PM

To: Albright, David

Subject: California UIC

Importance: High

Hi David,

I've just been asked to provide (by COB) any hot topics for the Administrator's visit next week. This one is rising to the top. Is the write up below still accurate? It's from the latest Hot Topic report.

California UIC Program: On July 17, 2014, the Region 9 RA sent a letter to the Secretaries of CalEPA and the CA Natural Resources Agency highlighting concerns and requesting information about the State's implementation of its underground injection control program for oil and gas-related (Class II) wells. The Region had previously

audited the State's Class II UIC program and identified implementation deficiencies and also conducted a review of aquifer exemptions that raised questions about the alignment of injection wells with EPA-approved exemption boundaries. A few weeks prior to EPA's issuance of the July 2014 letter, the State disclosed they had identified some injection wells authorized to inject Class II fluids into very fresh aquifers that EPA had not exempted (the State subsequently shut down these injection wells). EPA's letter requested that the State provide information about their ongoing assessment of drinking water sources that may be impacted by improper injection, documentation pertaining to aquifer exemptions in the State, and specific data about any Class II injection wells that may be injecting into non-exempt aquifers. The State is expected to submit all of the requested information within the next 2-3 months, and the Region will work closely with the CA Division of Oil and Gas and State Water Board to determine actions needed to ensure compliance with the State's UIC primacy program and protect aquifers that could be potential sources of drinking water.

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